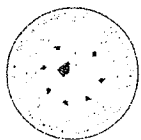


## THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON



February 29, 2012

Chairman Edward Meyer

Chairman Richard Roy

Members of the Environment Committee

**RE: H.B. 5118: AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF TRASH -TO- ENERGY FACILITIES AS CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES.**

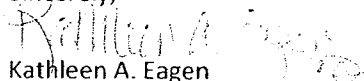
Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Town of Farmington strongly supports H.B. 5118 for the following reasons:

- Trash -to- energy facilities will remain an economically viable alternative to the environmentally less-desirable alternative of hauling trash to out of state landfills.
- If trash-to-energy becomes economically unviable, forcing hundreds of thousands of tons of garbage to seek new destinations, such flooding of the market will cause hauling prices to skyrocket and all municipalities in the state will be impacted by dramatically higher tip fees.
- Passage of H.B. 5118 will allow tipping fees to remain stable in the short term and reduce tipping fees in the long term benefiting cash-strapped towns that have opted to utilize trash-to-energy.
- An analysis using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency models determined that trash-to-energy avoids 36 million tons of greenhouse emissions each year. Each ton of trash turned to electricity avoids nearly one ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions through avoided methane emissions from landfills and avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil-fuel combustion and metal recycling.
- The State of Maryland has just reclassified trash-to-energy as a source of Class 1 renewable power.
- Connecticut's renewable portfolio standard mandates that 8 percent of all electricity sold in our state comes from Class 1 renewable sources, but because Connecticut produces so little Class 1 renewable power our state must import it at a premium price.
- Energy diversity helps to ensure energy security. Connecticut's six trash-to-energy plants provide enough electricity to power 300,000 homes.
- Without the added revenue, CRRA will be unable to fulfill its core mission of expanding recycling and investigating new methods and technologies that could potentially expand recycling rates. Ultimately, success in this mission will drive down the cost of waste management and reducing tipping fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Kathleen A. Eagen

Town Manager

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